Ever Have the Feeling?

Who has not felt the sensation which the French call "deja vu" or "deja entendu," meaning that he is doing or seeing or hearing something he has experienced before?

"In a perfectly new situation," writes a physician in the Government Hospital For the Insane, in the Popular Science Monthly, "in a place which he has never before visited, a person believes that he has been a visitor there at some previous time. These feelings of having already experienced such situations are frequently due to memory defects.

"It is probable that what takes place is that one or several elements in the present situation are like those which had been experienced in the past, but that the dissimilarities in the situation are not observed. The individual has a memory defect in that he parallels or identifies a complex present experience with a similar complex past experience, although in the present experience the number of elements which are the same as those in the past may not be very great."

House Chimneys.

Chimneys were scarcely known in England in the year 1200. One only was allowed in a religious house, one in a manor house and one in a great hall of a castle or a lord's house, but in other houses the smoke found its way out as it could. The writers of the fourteenth century seemed to have considered them as the newest invention of luxury. In Henry VII.'s reign the University of Oxford had no fire allowed, for it is mentioned after the students had supped, having no fire in winter, they were obliged to take a good run to get heat in their feet before they retired for the night. Holinshed in the reign of Elizabeth describes the rudeness of the preceding generation in the arts of life.

"There were," says he, "very few chimneys. Even in the capital towns the fire was laid to the wall, and the smoke issued out of the door, roof or window."

In the year of 1639 a tax of 2 shillings was laid on chimneys.—London Strand Magazine.

Woods We Use In Our Toys.

"It must not be considered that dolls are the only wooden toys in the manufacture of which American industry has been progressing," says the Southern Lumberman. "Among the toys made in this country from American woods are toy animals, blocks, boats, cannon and forts, children's chairs, circus sets, dolls, doll furniture, games, Christmas tree holders, swing jumpers, children's pianos, pastry sets, babies' play yards, toy shooting galleries, hobbyhorses, popguns, toy wagons, toy autos and wheelbarrows. Basswood is the principal material for wooden toys and for wooden parts of metal toys. Next to basswood, sugar maple, beech, birch and white pine are the principal woods used for toys. The amount of woods used annually in the United States for toy manufacture is nearly 29,000,000 feet."

A Prohibited Inscription.

In the west cloister of Westminster abbey, in the oldest part of the building, imbedded in the pavement is a slab of marble marking the grave of John Broughton, who was a verger in the abbey for more than thirty years and before he obtained the situation was the champion prizefighter of Great Britain, holding the belt for more than twelve years. The guides who show people around the abbey say that when he was buried in the cloister some of his admirers wanted to immortalise him with an appropriate epitaph, and they indicate a blank space under his name which was left for the inscription, "For twelve years champion prizefighter of England," but it was prohibited.

"Landlady."

The distinction which the possession of land used to give is still exemplified in the titles of "landlord" and "landlady." Persons are amused at the colored washerwoman, for instance, who insists on the term "lady." But let the same woman run a rooming house of whatever description and she is not a "landwoman," but a "landlady."—Kansas City Star.

Exasperating.

"The phrase 'He hates himself' is intended for sarcasm when applied to an egotist, I believe."

"Quite right, but it's the unvarnished truth when applied to a man who starts to tell a funny story and forgets how it ends."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Self Protection.

"I always take my wife with me when I buy a new hat."

"That's considerate."

"No, it isn't. If I buy one by myself she blames me for the way I look in it. If she goes along I blame her."—Washington Star.

Too Familiar.

"I suppose you are familiar with the works of Bobby Burns?"

"Certainly, and also with the works of Billy Shakespeare, Georgie Byron and Jack Milton."—Boston Transcript.

Don't Be Conceited.

If you make yourself the center of the universe all your perspective is skewed. There is only one moral center of the universe, and that is God.—Woodrow Wilson.

Scared Her.

Mom—Why did you accept him the third time he proposed? Dora—Because he said it would be the last time.—Judge.

Puzzles In Mathematics.

A New York engineer was surveying the route of a branch line for a railway system. An old backwoodsman with whom he stopped for a time admitted one day when he saw the engineer figuring in the field that mathematics always seemed a wonderful thing to him.

Being young and enthusiastic, the engineer began to enlarge upon its wonders, telling the farmer how we could measure the distances to different planets and even weigh the planets; how we could foretell the coming of a comet or an eclipse years in advance of its actual occurrence, determine the velocity of the swiftest projectiles, ascertain the heights of mountains without scaling them, and many other things meant to astonish the old man.

"Yes, them things does seem kinder curious," said the old man, "but what always bothered me was to understand why you have to carry one for every ten. But if you don't," he continued with conviction, "the darned thing won't come out right."—Everybody's Magazine.

Seeing In the Dark.

Sir J. J. Thomson is authority for the statement that when a body is heated above the temperature of boiling water it ordinarily begins to be faintly visible, especially by averted vision, but no definite color is discerned until the temperature has risen considerably higher. This suggests that the first effects are felt by the "rods" and not by the "cones," which together form the retina. The cones are specially concerned with the perception of color. From this one would infer that animals which see in the dark must have retinas particularly rich in rods, and physiology shows that this is notably true of the owl, whose retina is remarkable for the extremely great proportion of rods to cones. In a faint light, states Professor Thomson, the owl sees no color, but he sees something, which is good enough for his purposes where we would see nothing at all.—Philadelphia Record.

A Remarkable Toad.

The toad of Surinam, Dutch Guiana, is very remarkable in one respect. It first awakes to life while on its mother's back. When the eggs are laid the male takes them in his broad paws and contrives to place them on the back of its mate, where they adhere by means of glutinous secretion and by degrees become embedded in a series of curious cells formed for them in the skin. When the process is completed the cells are closed by a kind of membrane, and the back of the female toad bears a strong resemblance to a piece of dark honeycomb when the cells are filled and closed. Here the eggs are hatched, and in these strange receptacles the young pass through their first stages of life, not emerging until they have attained their limbs and can move about on the ground. Over 120 eggs have been counted upon the back of a single Surinam toad.

She Knew Boys.

The Employer—If my wife calls up say that I've just gone out.

The Office Boy—Yes, sir; I'll say it every time she calls up.

The Employer—You mustn't do that. My wife would have a poor opinion of your truthfulness.

The Boy—Yes, sir; she has it now.

The Employer—What do you mean?

The Boy—Why, she called up this morning and asked me if I was the new boy, and I said, "Yes, ma'am." And she said it was no place for a truthful boy. She said you had no use for a truthful boy. Then she said, "Did you ever tell a lie?" And I said, "No, ma'am."

"And what did she say?"

"She said, 'You'll do!'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Porto Rico's Telephone Plant.

Porto Rico has one very unique kind of "telephone plant," says the Western Electric News. It is an air plant something like an orchid. It has no roots, but derives its nourishment from the air, the seeds evidently being carried by the wind or birds and insects to some substance where they lodge and sprout. This growth is found most frequently on insulated wire, although it has been observed on bare iron wire that has rusted. It has never been seen on new bare iron, copper wire or cable and causes little trouble, as the mass is seldom large enough to cross two wires.

Way of a Woman.

"So he won her by fighting with his rival. I shouldn't think such a little shrimp of a fellow could put up much of a battle."

"Oh, he got licked; that's what made him solid with her—that's just like a woman, you know."—Florida Times-Union.

Mines In Naval Warfare.

Floating mines, under various names, have figured in naval warfare for nearly 350 years, but they were first used with really deadly effect in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5.

Nettle Juice Dye.

A fine yellow dye is produced from the roots of nettles boiled in alum. The juice of the stalk and leaves is used to dye woolen stuffs a brilliant and permanent green.

Paper In Arabia.

Paper was made from rags in Arabia more than ten centuries ago, the art being brought to Europe in the thirteenth century.

Love, like fortune, turns upon a wheel and is very much given to rising and falling.—Vanbrugh.

Speed of Railway Trains.

Among the fast records of railway trains for short distances are the following: New York Central and Hudson river, one mile in thirty-two seconds; Pennsylvania, five and a half miles in three minutes; Burlington route, two and one-fourth miles in one minute and twenty seconds; Plant system, five miles in two and one-half minutes; Philadelphia and Reading, four and eight-tenths miles in two and a half minutes.

The fastest time on record for a distance of over 440 miles was made by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern from Buffalo to Chicago, in June, 1905, when the distance of 525 miles was covered in seven hours and fifty minutes. The fastest long distance run less than 440 miles was on the New York Central, on Sept. 11, 1895, from New York to Buffalo, 436½ miles, in 407 minutes. The average speed was sixty-four and one-third miles an hour, with two stops and twenty-eight slowups, and on Jan. 1, 1906, from Albany to Buffalo, 302 miles, in 295 minutes.—Philadelphia Press.

Girding Up the Loins.

In Biblical times the strong man "girded up his loins" when about to undertake some feat of physical endurance. And the custom is by no means obsolete among certain orientals at the present time. Thus in preparing for a fatiguing journey the oriental winds a piece of cloth about fifteen feet long and twelve to eighteen inches wide tightly around the abdomen and back. It is put on by having a person hold one end while the wearer winds himself up tightly in it, and the orientals believe that this girdle relieves fatigue and guards against intestinal troubles by preventing chilling. This explanation of the sustaining effect of the girdle is probably incorrect, although the good effects themselves cannot be doubted. In all probability it is the support given the abdominal muscles, rather than the protection to the skin, that explains the beneficial results.—Los Angeles Times.

Odd Sheets of Note Paper.

A good way to use up odd sheets of note paper for which you have no envelopes is to make them, with the aid of your sewing machine, into a package of correspondence sheets that need no cover. Cut the note paper into halves along the folded edge and fold each half again. Remove the thread from your sewing machine needle and carefully run the paper under the guide of the machine, leaving an accurate quarter of an inch margin on three sides. The fold of the paper should remain untouched. That makes a double sheet, three of the four edges of which are perforated. When you are ready to send a letter write on the inside of the folded sheet, then moisten the edges with glue, seal them and write the address on the outside of the folded sheet. The person to whom the letter is addressed can open it by tearing off the margins that seal it.—Youth's Companion.

Unquestioning Obedience.

Much trouble as well as much amusement was caused during the early stages of the Panama canal work by the inability of the Jamaican negroes to take any except a strictly literal view of orders. In unloading a vessel at Colon a rope in a pulley at the head of the mast got jammed, and a Jamaican was ordered to climb up and release it. He did as ordered. Some minutes later the boss of the gang missed him and asked with some impatience where he was. He was pointed out sitting calmly at the masthead.

"What are you doing up there?" roared the boss.

"You told me to come up here, sah," the man answered, "but you haven't told me to come down!"—Joseph B. Bishop, Secretary of Isthmian Canal Commission, in Youth's Companion.

A Chicago Milk Story.

A family living in South Chicago found a good deal of cream on a bottle of milk which had been standing overnight, and when the driver called in the morning the pleased servant held it up to the light and said, "Look here; I have never seen anything like this before on your milk!"

The man looked at it for a moment, scratched his head and replied, "Well, I don't know what's the matter, but you can throw it out, and I'll give you a fresh bottle in its place."—Chicago News.

Can You Beat It?

She—Oh, Jack, do excuse me for getting here so late! You poor fellow, you've had to wait an hour for me! He—Oh, no; it's all right! I've only just come. She—What! So that's the way you treat me, is it? If I'd come at the time agreed you'd have made me wait a whole hour.—Boston Transcript.

Named the Bird.

Irate Diner—Hey, waiter, there's not a drop of real coffee in this mixture. Fresh Waiter—Some little bird told you, I suppose. Irate Diner—Yes, a swallow.—Princeton Tiger.

The Hartford Constitution.

The first written constitution in America governed the people of Hartford, Conn. This included the neighboring towns. The year was 1639.—Magazine of American History.

Wasted.

Blogge — People are inexcusably wasteful of writing paper. Blogge—That's so. I've got creditors who write to me every week.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Know this, that troubles come swifter than the things we desire.—Plautus.

Noah's Ark and Other Vessels.

It is generally agreed that Noah's ark measured about 450 feet in length, 75 feet in breadth and 45 feet in depth.

The Greeks and the Romans constructed several large vessels measuring upward of 500 feet. These were built for the emperors or rulers, and were little more than enormous scows, without any means of propulsion.

A vessel 420 feet in length was built by Ptolemy, which was propelled by 500 rowers, arranged in five banks, using oars fifty-seven feet in length.

The fame of the Thalamegus still lives. This boat, which measured 300 feet in length, 40 feet in breadth and 60 feet in depth, was said to have been the most beautiful craft in antiquity, and was used exclusively by the emperor.

A king of Syracuse is also credited with having built a very palatial boat, whose cabins were hung with costly silks and decorated with rare statues. After the decline of the Roman empire no great ships were constructed for more than 1,000 years.—Pearson's.

Wisdom of a Czar.

About a hundred years ago the Emperor Alexander I. of Russia returned to St. Petersburg after an absence of many months, during which time he had taken an active part in the war against Napoleon. Alexander was one one of the wisest and most magnanimous rulers of his time. It was to a great extent his firmness and wisdom that led to the overthrow of Napoleon, and after that event his magnanimity preserved the city of Paris from the fury of the Russian soldiers, liberated 150,000 French prisoners of war confined in Russia and sought to obtain for his fallen foe the most liberal terms compatible with what he deemed the safety of Europe. One of the first acts of the emperor after his return to Russia was to grant an absolute pardon to all his subjects who had taken part against him in the late war.—Pittsburgh Press.

David Garrick.

Feb. 20, 1716, was born David Garrick, the greatest actor who ever appeared on the English stage, for he was equally great in comedy and tragedy. Every one who saw him came under his spell. The actress, Mrs. Clive, who averred she hated him, stood in the wings one night watching Garrick and alternately crying and scolding. At last, disgusted with her exhibition of emotion, she stalked away, exclaiming, "Hang him, he could act a gridiron!" But an even greater compliment was paid by Rousseau, in whose honor Garrick gave a special performance. The first part of the bill was a tragedy, the second part a comedy, both in English. At the end of the evening Rousseau said to Garrick, "I have cried all through your tragedy and laughed all through your comedy, without knowing a single word of your language."—London Chronicle.

Burns' Cottage.

The Burns cottage at Ayr is under the charge of trustees, who purchased it in 1881 from the Ayr Shoemakers' incorporation for the sum of £4,000. The birthplace of the poet had up till that time been in use as a public house. The trustees abandoned the license and after a time removed the hall and other extraneous buildings which had been added to the premises and restored the cottage buildings as nearly as possible to the state they may have been in in Burns' time. A new museum was built at the northeast corner of the grounds. Most of the relics were removed to the museum, which now contains a priceless collection—a first or Kilmarnock edition of the poet's works, for which £1,000 was paid, and Burns' family Bible, acquired at a cost of £1,700.—London Answers.

Weak on Geography.

Geography floors most of us occasionally, and Dean Hole has recorded an instance when even a bishop nodded. Hole and Dean Spence were staying with Dean Pigou at Chichester, and their host began to talk about Korea. Suspecting some ignorance, he asked if they knew where it was. Hole said he thought you booked for Charing Cross and Spence that you got out at Baker street. There was laughter, and a bishop who had been listening asked in perplexity wherein lay the joke.—London Standard.

Great Famines.

The worst famines of modern times were the famine in Ireland in 1846-7, in which 1,000,000 people perished; the Indian famine in 1866, which claimed 1,450,000 victims; the Indian famine in 1877, in which 500,000 people perished, and the great famine in China in 1878, in which 9,500,000 died.

When It Broke.

Bill—Did you ever try to stand on an egg?

Jill—Oh, yes.

"And what did you learn?"

"That the inside of the egg was stronger than the outside."—Yonkers Statesman.

Plenty of Practice.

"I wonder how Mrs. Inkleigh got her start as a writer of fiction."

"Composing references for her discharged help, I understand."—Boston Transcript.

Cheerfulness.

To be free minded and cheerfully disposed at hours of meat, of sleep and of exercise is one of the best precepts of long lasting.—Bacon.

Superfluous.

Mrs. Crawford — Do you tell your neighbor all your family affairs? Mrs. Crabshaw—It isn't necessary. She's on the same party line.

Curious Brain Organ.

Depending from the base of the brain like a berry on its stalk is a capsule about the size of a cherry. Tiny and obscure as this organ is, its derangements may have the most amazing effects upon the mind and body. Should it become superactive the body may suddenly shoot up to the stature of a giant. Should its functions become feeble in childhood the victim in old age will retain the stature and mentality of a six-year-old child, along with all the organic and decrepitudes of senility. This gland is called the pituitary body. This suggests the fanciful possibility that ancient legends asserting the existence of giants may have had a scientific basis in pathology. Goliath was perhaps the victim of a deranged pituitary body, and in the ravages of the malady may lie an explanation of his failing so easy a prey to a rock slung by a shepherd boy. The Greek Titans may have been a tribe in which there was an epidemic of thyroiditis.—Exchange.

Bringing About an Agreement.

"I have something for you here, my love," said Mr. Darley, as he proceeded to open a large round box.

"What is it, precious?"

"Wait and see."

Darley carefully unwrapped the article and disclosed a lady's hat.

"Isn't it a beauty?" he asked. "I bought it myself as a surprise to you. Don't you think it is a perfect dream?"

Mrs. Darley gazed at the hat and burst into tears.

"I can't wear it," she blubbered. "It doesn't suit me at all. You meant to please me, I know, but it isn't my style at all."

"Don't cry, dear. The milliner said you could exchange it, and if you'll agree not to buy any ties for me hereafter I'll let you select your own hats and bonnets."

An agreement was concluded on that basis.—New York World.

Headdress of Chilean Women.

The Chilean people are a combination of the original Indian population, a large and virile race, with the Spanish conquerors. This combination has produced a fine race of large stature, which takes readily to fighting and to an energetic development of the resources of the country, but which has been singularly deficient in the branches of literature and art which require a vivid imagination. Although the wealthy Chileans, especially those living in the capital, follow faithfully the slightest fluctuations in European fashions, the manto remains the distinctive headdress for street use by the Chilean women. This is a plain black cloth which covers the head, is caught in a loose knot behind the neck and then falls over the shoulders, sometimes almost to the ground. The manto is said to be unusually becoming to the Chilean type.

Helgoland's Lighthouse.

The Helgoland light is an electric one and the most powerful in Germany and is claimed by the Germans to be the most powerful light in existence. The light consists of a cluster of three revolving lights, having a lighting power of 40,000,000 candles, a magnitude of light which from figures alone is hard and difficult to realize. The lights are on the searchlight principle, and the cluster is surmounted by a single light, of the same kind and size, that can be revolved independently and three times as fast as the three lights. The single light is put into use in case of accident to the cluster of three. The electric power is generated by two steam engines and boilers, running belt driven electric generators.—London Opinion.

True Humility.

The late Thomas Flint, professor of divinity in Edinburgh university, was the son of a Dumfriesshire shepherd. When he moved to Edinburgh his father went with him and remained the head of the house. In this circumstance Professor Flint's biographer finds "something touching and beautiful:" "One of the greatest scholars of his day, a man of worldwide reputation, the leading theologian of Scotland, sits humbly at the family table and kneels reverently at prayer while his aged father, a simple peasant, conducts the devotion of the household."

Dodging the Question.

Mrs. Stalor—John, don't you think I need a new gown? This one is beginning to look shabby. Mr. Stalor—I don't see anything the matter with it. You look well enough in it to suit me, and why should I pay money to make you more attractive to other men?—Exchange.

Heard Downtown.

"Spose my face is dirty," said the office boy in the elevator, "what business is that of yours? You ain't my father."

"No, but I'm bringing you up," replied the elevator man.—Boston Transcript.

The Legion of Honor.

In 1802 Bonaparte proposed the formation of a legion of honor which was to include in its ranks men of distinction from every walk in life, not only soldiers, but savants, jurists and authors.

"It is aristocratic in its tendency," said Berlier, a distinguished lawyer, "leading France back to the ancient regime when crosses, badges and ribbons were the toys of monarchy."

"Well," replied Napoleon, "men are led by toys. The French are not all changed by ten years of revolution; they are what the Gauls were—fierce and fickle. They have one feeling—honor. We must nourish that feeling; they must have distinction."

The oath taken by a new member of the Legion of Honor was to devote himself "to the service of the republic, to the maintenance of the integrity of its territory, the defense of its government, laws and of the property which they have consecrated; to fight against every attempt to re-establish the feudal regime or to reproduce the titles and qualities thereto belonging."—"Napoleon and the End of the French Revolution," by Charles F. Warwick.

Well Tempered Living.

The statistics of insanity show that the minds of men and women are often made aberrant through the steady drive of environment, in which the simple life and the spurring city life are equally at fault. The figures show the per capita of insanity differs little in city and country. Rural solitude and the abnormal life of the city are alike responsible for mental diseases. It is as bad for man to be too much alone as it is for him to be surrounded by perfervid life. The history of the race, the inquiries of investigators and the judgment of specialists in the diseases of mind and body tell us that the well tempered life, void of excesses, is the plane upon which men and women best endure in mental and bodily health, a temperance of thought and a temperance of action in an environment in which the individual is neither submerged by human society nor detached from it.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Not So Very Cheap.

The man who wishes to economize was advised by a friend to go to a certain restaurant.

"Mighty cheap," said the friend. So the would be boarder went there. Next day he met that friend.

"Pretty cheap place, eh?" said the latter.

"Not on your life!"

"What do you mean? Can you get as good soup elsewhere as you can there for the price?"

"Certainly not."

"And did you ever get such roast beef at another place for what you paid at this one?"

"I never did."

"Well, then, why do you say the place isn't cheap?"

"Because," said the man who wanted to save, "while I was eating somebody stole my hat and overcoat!"—New York Times.

Silent Tragedies.

It is only the life of violence, the life of bygone days that is perceived by nearly all our tragic writers, and truly one may say that anachronism dominates the stage, and that dramatic art dates back as many years as the art of sculpture. To the tragic author it is only the violence of the anecdote that appeals. And he imagines, forsooth, that we shall delight in witnessing the very same acts that brought joy to the hearts of barbarians, with whom murder, outrage and treachery were matters of daily occurrence, whereas it is far away from bloodshed, battlecry and sword thrust that the lives of most of us flow on, and men's tears are silent today, and invisible and almost spiritual.—Maeterlinck.

Breaking It Gently.

"If you please, mamma," asks Benjamin, aged ten, "will you kindly lend me a pencil?"

"But," said his mother, "I left a pen and ink for you to do your lessons with on the nursery table. Why don't you use that instead of a pencil?"

"Well, you see," Benjamin explained, "I want a pencil to write and ask the editor how to remove ink stains from a carpet."